

Court Dockets Legal Research Calendar

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# IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR TULSA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

KENDRA MILLER, Plaintiff,

CITY OF TULSA, Defendant, and

CHUCK JORDAN, Defendant.

DISCRIMINATION)

No. CJ-2014-2239

Filed: 06/10/2014

Judge: Chappelle, Carlos

(Civil relief more than \$10,000:

#### **Parties**

CITY OF TULSA, Defendant JORDAN, CHUCK, Defendant MILLER, KENDRA, Plaintiff

### **Attorneys**

Attorney SMOLEN, DANIEL E(Bar # 19943) 701 S. CINCINNATI TULSA, OK 74119

**Represented Parties** MILLER, KENDRA

#### **Events**

**Docket Event Party** Reporter

#### Issues

For cases filed before 1/1/2000, ancillary issues may not appear except in the docket.

Issue #1. Issue: DISCRIMINATION (DISCRIM)

Filed by: MILLER, KENDRA Filed Date: 06/10/2014

**Party Name: Disposition Information:** 

**Defendant:** CITY OF TULSA Pending.

**Defendant:** JORDAN, CHUCK Pending.

#### **Docket**

Date	Code	Count	Party	Serial #	Entry Date			
06-10-201	4 TEXT	1		90316069	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:113PM	-	\$ 0.00	
CIVIL RELIEF MORE THAN \$10,000 INITIAL FILING.								
06-10-201	4 DISCRIM	_		90316071	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:493PM	Realized	\$ 0.00	

	DISCRIMINATION				
06-10-2014	DMFE - DISPUTE MEDIATION FEE(\$ 2.00)	90316072	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:513PM	Realized	\$ 2.00
06-10-2014	PFE1 - PETITION(\$ 163.00)  Document Available (#1025501288)	90316073	Jun 10 2014 4:13:41:373PM	Realized	\$ 163.00
06-10-2014	PFE7 - LAW LIBRARY FEE(\$ 6.00)	90316074	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:513PM	Realized	\$ 6.00
06-10-2014	OCISR - OKLAHOMA COURT INFORMATION SYS	90316075 STEM RE\	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:513PM VOLVING FUND(\$ 25.00	Realized	\$ 25.00
06-10-2014	CCADMIN02 - COURT CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE FEE C	90316076 ON \$2 CO	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:513PM LLECTIONS(\$ 0.20)	Realized	\$ 0.20
06-10-2014	OCJC - OKLAHOMA COUNCIL ON JUDICIAL COI	90316077 MPLAINT	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:513PM S REVOLVING FUND(\$	Realized 2.00)	\$ 2.00
06-10-2014	OCASA - OKLAHOMA COURT APPOINTED SPECI	90316078 AL ADVO	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:513PM CATES(\$ 5.00)	Realized	\$ 5.00
06-10-2014	CCADMIN04 - COURT CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE FEE C	90316079 ON COLLE	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:513PM ECTIONS(\$ 0.50)	Realized	\$ 0.50
06-10-2014	LTF - LENGTHY TRIAL FUND(\$ 10.00)	90316080	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:713PM	Realized	\$ 10.00
06-10-2014	SMF - SUMMONS FEE (CLERKS FEE)-2(\$ 10.00	90316081 <b>)</b> )	Jun 10 2014 4:00:02:653PM	Realized	\$ 10.00
06-10-2014	SMIMA - SUMMONS ISSUED - MAILED BY ATTOR	90316082 RNEY-2	Jun 10 2014 4:00:20:963PM	Realized	\$ 0.00
06-10-2014	TEXT - OCIS HAS AUTOMATICALLY ASSIGNED	90316070 JUDGE (	Jun 10 2014 3:59:30:313PM CHAPPELLE, CARLOS		\$ 0.00 SE.
06-10-2014	ACCOUNT -	90316133	Jun 10 2014 4:01:15:403PM	-	\$ 0.00
	RECEIPT # 2014-2868066 ON 06/10/2014 PAYOR:SMOLEN SMOLEN TOTAL AMOU LINE ITEMS: CJ-2014-2239: \$173.00 ON AC01 CLERK CJ-2014-2239: \$6.00 ON AC23 LAW LIBR CJ-2014-2239: \$0.70 ON AC31 COURT CI CJ-2014-2239: \$5.00 ON AC58 OKLAHON CJ-2014-2239: \$2.00 ON AC59 OKLAHON FUND. CJ-2014-2239: \$2.00 ON AC64 DISPUTE CJ-2014-2239: \$25.00 ON AC79 OCIS RE CJ-2014-2239: \$10.00 ON AC81 LENGTH	JNT PAID FEES. ARY FEE LERK RE MA COUR MA COUN MEDIATIO VOLVING	 VOLVING FUND. T APPOINTED SPECIA CIL ON JUDICIAL COM ON FEES. G FUND.		

06-20-2014 S - CITY OF TULSA 90443936 Jun 20 2014 4:32:02:310PM - \$ 0.00

PARTY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY SERVED/SUMMMONS CERTIFIED MAIL TO CITY OF TULSA / ON 6-17-14 / SIGNED SORRELS

Document Available (#1026258559)

06-23-2014 S - JORDAN, CHUCK 90459402 Jun 23 2014 3:52:55:460PM - \$ 0.00

PARTY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY SERVED. CHUCK JORDAN SERVED / PERS/CORP SERV / ON 6-23-14 BY PS

Document Available (#1026059594)

Report Generated by The Oklahoma Court Information System at July 10, 2014 11:48 AM

End of Transmission.

	OURT FOR TULSA COUNT OF OKLAHOMA	DISTRICT COURT FY  JUN 1 0 2014		
MICHAEL P. KIER CITY CLERKintiff,	) CASE NO.	SALLY HOWE SMITH, COURT CLERK STATE OF ORTA, TULSA COUNTY		
VS.	) ATTORNEY LIE			
CITY OF TULSA and CHUCK JORDAN, individually and in official capacity as Chief of Police,		02239 os J. Chappelle		
Defendants.	)			

## **PETITION**

COMES NOW Plaintiff, Kendra Miller, by and through her attorney of record, Daniel E. Smolen of Smolen, Smolen & Roytman, PLLC, and brings this action against Defendants, City of Tulsa and Chuck Jordan, for their violations of Plaintiff's constitutionally protected rights arising out of her employment and termination by said Defendants.

# PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

- 1. This is an action for damages and to secure protection of and to redress deprivation of rights secured by Title VII of the Civil Rights act of 1964, as amended 42 U.S.C §2000-2 hereinafter ("Title VII"), and the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution as enforced by the Civil Rights Act of 1871, 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 2. Defendant City of Tulsa ("City") is a municipality incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma and is located in Tulsa County in the State of Oklahoma. The City regularly employs more than twenty (20) employees. The City is authorized, pursuant to Oklahoma statutory law and the charter of the City of Tulsa, to establish, maintain and

supervise the operations of the Tulsa Police Department ("TPD"). 11 O.S. § 22-101. The policies, procedures, customs, orders, and actions which are alleged herein were promulgated, implemented, ratified or otherwise sanctioned under color of law by the City and therefore constitute acts of the State within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

- 3. Defendant Charles W. "Chuck" Jordan is the Chief of Police for the TPD. At relevant times, he was an agent, servant, and/or employee of the City, acting under the color of state law. As the Chief of Police, he is responsible for creating, adopting, approving, ratifying, and enforcing the rules, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and/or customs of the TPD, including the policies, practices, and/or customs that violated Plaintiff's constitutional rights as set forth in this Petition. Defendant Jordan is sued individual and in his official capacity as the Chief of Police.
- 4. Plaintiff, Kendra Miller, a female and resident of the State of Oklahoma, filed a charge of discrimination against Defendant with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"). Plaintiff complained to the EEOC of discrimination based upon her gender. Plaintiff received a Notice of Right to Sue and the original Complaint was filed within ninety days (90) of the receipt of the Notice of Right to Sue. As such, Plaintiff has complied fully with all prerequisites in this Court under Title VII.
- 5. Jurisdiction of the Court is proper under § 706(f)(3) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. §2000e-5(f)(3). In addition, jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and 28 U.S.C. § 1337 (Acts of Congress regulating commerce).
- 6. Compensatory damages are sought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(g).
- 7. Punitive damages are sought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1981-A.

- 8. Costs and attorney's fees may be awarded pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2000e 5(g).
- 9. This action lies properly in Tulsa County, Oklahoma as the unlawful employment practices complained of herein occurred within the Oklahoma and because Defendant is a corporation conducting regular business in Tulsa County, Oklahoma.

### FACTS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

- 10. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.
- 11. Plaintiff worked for Defendants from May 2, 2004 until she was discharged in 2009.
- 12. At the time of her discharge from employment Plaintiff was a Police Officer under the supervision of Sergeant Brian Hill.
- 13. Plaintiff was wrongfully terminated in 2009.
- 14. Pursuant to her employment contract the Plaintiff participated in arbitration with the City of Tulsa.
- 15. The arbitrator ruled in Plaintiff's favor and ordered the City of Tulsa to reinstate the Plaintiff.
- 16. Despite its obligation to comply with the arbitrator's order, the Defendants refused to reinstate the Plaintiff. This refusal to reinstate is ongoing.
- 17. An attorney representing the City, James Connor, informed Plaintiff that the arbitrator's ruling was allegedly outside of the scope of the contract between the City of Tulsa and the Fraternal Order of the Police.
- 18. However, Plaintiff is aware of numerous male police officers who were in fact reinstated by the City after the arbitrator ordered reinstatement. Specifically, Plaintiff is aware that Robert Roseboro and Buddy Visser were terminated from the City. Both males

then went through arbitration with the City and were ordered reinstated. The City complied with the arbitrator's ruling and reinstated Mr. Roseboro and Mr. Visser.

- 19. Plaintiff is also aware of male police officers who were disciplined through suspension or demotion for policy violations but received favorable orders from arbitration with which the City complied.
- 20. Specifically, Darrin Filak, was demoted for a policy violation. After arbitration, the arbitrator ordered reinstatement to his former position and the City complied.
- 21. Paul Fields, Timothy Means, and John McDowell were suspended for policy violations. The arbitrator ordered each of the suspensions be reduced and the City of Tulsa complied.
- 22. Plaintiff believes that she was treated differently because of her gender. Specifically, the City consistently complied with the arbitrator's orders when it pertained to male police officer but refused to comply in the case of Plaintiff, a female officer.

# FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF Disparate Treatment on the Basis of Gender in Violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000(e), et. seg.

- 23. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.
- 24. The foregoing conduct violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000(e), et. seq.
- 25. Plaintiff experienced disparate treatment compared to her similarly situated male coworkers with regard to termination, arbitration and reinstatement in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000(e), et. seq.

- 26. Defendants' discriminatory practices have resulted in the loss of past and future wages and other job benefits, and have caused Plaintiff to suffer humiliation, embarrassment, and emotional distress.
- 27. Defendants committed the acts alleged with malice or reckless indifference to the protected rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff is thus entitled to recover punitive damages in an amount to be determined according to proof.
- 28. Upon information and belief, the Plaintiff being terminated from employment and the City's continuous failure to reinstate her despite the arbitrator's order were motivated in substantial part by the Plaintiff's gender, in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, et. seq.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff pray for judgment against Defendants for:

- a. Back pay and lost benefits; front pay until normal retirement
- b. Compensatory damages for her mental anguish, pain and suffering and other non-pecuniary losses;
- c. Punitive damages for the intentional and knowing acts of discrimination committed by Defendants' management and executives;
- d. Her attorney fees and the costs and expenses of this action;
- e. Injunctive Relief; and
- f. Such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

# **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF: Equal Protection Violation**

- 29. By reason of the aforementioned acts, policies, practices, procedures, and/or customs created, adopted, and enforced under color of state law, Defendants deprived Plaintiff of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 30. Plaintiff is a member of a protected class because she is a female.

- 31. Plaintiff suffered an adverse employment action when she was wrongfully terminated and again when Defendants continuously refused to reinstate her despite the arbitrator's order to do so.
- 32. Similarly situated employees outside of the protected class were treated differently. Specifically, Defendants routinely followed the arbitrator's orders regarding male police officers.
- 33. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' gender discrimination against her in violation of Plaintiff's rights protected by the Fourteenth Amendment, Plaintiff has suffered irreparable harm, including the loss of her fundamental constitutional rights, adverse employment consequences, humiliation and emotional pain and suffering entitling her to declaratory and injunctive relief (including punitive damages).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff pray for judgment against Defendants for:

- a. Back pay and lost benefits; front pay until normal retirement
- b. Compensatory damages for her mental anguish, pain and suffering and other non-pecuniary losses;
- c. Punitive damages for the intentional and knowing acts of discrimination committed by Defendants' management and executives;
- d. Her attorney fees and the costs and expenses of this action;
- e. Injunctive Relief; and
- f. Such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

# THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress

- 34. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.
- 35. Defendants' actions of intentional and malicious discrimination are extreme and outrageous and have caused severe emotional and psychological damage to Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff pray for judgment against Defendants for:

- a. Back pay and lost benefits; front pay until normal retirement
- b. Compensatory damages for her mental anguish, pain and suffering and

- other non-pecuniary losses;
- c. Punitive damages for the intentional and knowing acts of discrimination committed by Defendants' management and executives;
- d. Her attorney fees and the costs and expenses of this action;
- e. Injunctive Relief; and
- f. Such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing, Plaintiff prays that this Court grant her the relief sought including, but not limited to, actual damages and punitive damages in excess of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000), with interest accruing from date of filing of suit, back pay and lost benefits, compensatory damages for mental anguish, pain and suffering and other non-pecuniary loss, reasonable attorneys fees, injunctive relief, and all other relief deemed appropriate by this Court.

Respectfully submitted,

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